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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Horitani et al.

Serial No.: 10/689,647

Group Art Unit: 3673

Filed: October 22, 2003

Examiner: Robert G. Santos

For: ELECTRIC BED AND CONTROL APPARATUS AND CONTROL METHOD THEREFOR

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313 - 1450

APPLICANTS' INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during a personal interview on March 15, 2005.

During the personal interview:

1. No exhibit was shown and no demonstration was conducted.
2. Independent claims 1-3, 18-20, 38, and 53 were discussed.
3. The Hayes et al. reference, the Webster et al. reference and the Shirai reference were discussed.
4. The clarifying amendments made to claim 1 was discussed.
5. During the personal interview, the Applicants' representative explained that none of the applied reference teaches or suggests the features of the claimed invention including: 1) storing a pattern that includes at least a coordinate point (α_0, β_0) ; and 2) a storage section for segmenting (α, β) coordinates into a plurality of areas by taking, as a reference, a pattern connecting between a coordinate point $(0, 0)$ at which each of the back bottom and the knee bottom is horizontal and a coordinate point (α_0, β_0) at which the back bottom is lifted up in the (α, β) coordinates by a plurality of points and storing operational modes of the back

bottom and the knee bottom for each area, and an operation section for determining in which one of the areas the back bottom and the knee bottom are located and controlling the first drive section and the second drive section based on the operational modes of that determined area.

6. No other pertinent matters were discussed.

7. Results of the Interview:

Examiner Santos agreed that none of the applied reference teaches or suggests the features of the claimed invention including: 1) storing a pattern that includes at least a coordinate point (α_0, β_0) ; and 2) a storage section for segmenting (α, β) coordinates into a plurality of areas by taking, as a reference, a pattern connecting between a coordinate point $(0, 0)$ at which each of the back bottom and the knee bottom is horizontal and a coordinate point (α_0, β_0) at which the back bottom is lifted up in the (α, β) coordinates by a plurality of points and storing operational modes of the back bottom and the knee bottom for each area, and an operation section for determining in which one of the areas the back bottom and the knee bottom are located and controlling the first drive section and the second drive section based on the operational modes of that determined area.

The Examiner also indicated that an updated search will be conducted.

Should the Examiner find the Application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

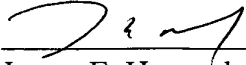
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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: 3/19/15



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